ELYSIAN CITY DUMP (FORMER)
MND 981 528 177

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Mr. Steven Colvin
Lake Francis - Tetonka Oversight Committee Chairman
c/o Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Mr. Colvin:

Thank you for your letter dated October 26, 1987 regarding the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)/U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) investigation of the Elysian Former City Dump (site). We understand that the Lake Francis-Tetonka Oversight Committee is concerned about the impacts the potential hazardous waste site may impose on Lake Tetonka, and is therefore requesting the MPCA and EPA to expedite the investigation of the site.

As has previously been discussed with you, the MPCA has established a program to assess potential hazardous waste sites, including the Elysian Former City Dump. Please refer to the enclosed memorandum which describes this assessment program.

At this time, a Preliminary Assessment for the site has been completed and a Site Inspection is scheduled to be conducted by the EPA's regional contractor in 1988. My staff has communicated your concerns to the EPA and their contractor and we are hopeful that the Site Inspection process will be expedited. A copy of the results of the Site Inspection will be sent to the Lake Francis-Tetonka Oversight Committee when available.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the site assessment program, please contact Shawn Ruotsinoja of my staff at (612) 296-7783.

Sincerely,

Michael Robertson
Deputy

for Gerald L. Willet
Commissioner

GLW:rh
Enclosure
cc: Dr. Don Josif, U.S. EPA
The Honorable John Schmidt
Steve Heiskary, MPCA
R. Casey, LeSueur County
B. Smith, LeSueur County
H. Quade, Lake Tetonka Association
B. Roettger, Lake Francis Association
O. Linstrom, Lake Francis Association

Phone:_____
520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
Regional Offices • Duluth/Brainerd/Detroit Lakes/Marshall/Rochester

DEPARTMENT : POLLUTION CON L AGENCY

SF-00006-05 (4/86)

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office Memorandum

DATE : November, 1987

TO : Interested Parties

FROM : Douglas N. Day
Supervisor, Site Assessment Unit
Program Development Section
Ground Water and Solid Waste Division
297-1793

PHONE :

SUBJECT : MPCA's SITE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM FOR POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES

Through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has established a program to assess potential hazardous waste sites. The MPCA's program has been designed to verify the presence of hazardous substances at a particular site and to assess a site's potential for harming human health and the environment. For your information, this Site Assessment program represents the initial phases of a hazardous waste site investigation under the state and federal superfund programs.

The Site Assessment program currently consists of the following three (3) phases: Preliminary Assessment, Site Inspection, and Hazard Ranking System scoring. A detailed discussion of each phase is provided below.

Preliminary Assessment - Once a potential hazardous waste site has been identified, the site is entered into the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS). This system is a listing of all potential hazardous waste sites reported to the EPA nationwide.

The Preliminary Assessment (PA) involves a general review of readily accessible information to characterize and to determine if the site warrants further action. The information gathered during a Preliminary Assessment includes: a site history (type of industrial or commercial activities and owner/operator relationships), known or alleged hazardous substances present (quantity, characteristics, method of disposal), and the potential effect the contamination may have on the nearby population and resources. In general, Preliminary Assessments are completed within a one-week period and consist primarily of a file research and review of available information.

Site Inspection - A Site Inspection (SI) is conducted to further define the extent of the problem and to provide a sufficient data base for ranking the site according to its actual or potential hazard. To accomplish these objectives, site specific data on the hazardous substances present, pollutant dispersal pathways, types of receptors, and site management practices is obtained. A Site Inspection is usually completed within a 3-6 month period and may include the following tasks:

- collect and analyze ground water, surface water, soil and air samples;
- survey and document site structures, topography, lagoons, drainage, drums, bulk tanks, monitoring wells, roads, access points, boundaries, etc.;
- document location of potentially affected homes, public buildings, natural areas, other populations, etc.; and,
- review owner/operator records.

At the present time, SI's are being conducted on high or medium priority sites by either the EPA (through a regional contractor) or the MPCA. It may take up to a year to schedule and complete an SI. A site may also be rated "No Further Action Needed" in which case an SI is deemed not necessary. It should be noted that these ratings are subject to change as more information becomes available.

Hazard Ranking System Scoring - If, as a result of the preliminary investigative activities, a site is verified as a hazardous waste site, the site is ranked as to its relative severity against other sites. This is accomplished by using the Hazard Ranking System (HRS) scoring model which utilizes the information gathered during the Preliminary Assessment and Site Inspection. These scores are used to establish priorities among sites and to determine a site's eligibility for Federal and/or State Superfund monies for response actions.

Following the hazard ranking process, a hazardous waste site may be added to the EPA National Priorities List (NPL) and/or the MPCA Permanent List of Priorities (PLP). A Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) is then conducted for the site to determine the extent of contamination and to evaluate response action alternatives. After the RI/FS is completed, appropriate response actions (i.e., source removal, ground water pumping, etc.) are undertaken at the site.